

Leon High School  
Summer Reading Assignment 2011  
English I

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We encourage all of our incoming freshmen to read books over the summer, and we hope this list will help you to find a book (or two or three) to enjoy. The portfolio assignment is required for all students who take English I Honors or Gifted; it is optional and extra credit for students who take any other English I course. If you are registered to take English I Honors or Gifted in the fall and would like to earn extra credit, you may read a second book from the list and create an additional portfolio.



This assignment is due to your English teacher the first day of school and must be typed.

**To turn in your assignment, you should have:**

1. a printed copy of your work to give to your English teacher, and
2. a copy of your assignment on a flash drive. (You won't turn in the flash drive; you'll use the electronic copy of your assignment to learn how to use Turnitin.com at the beginning of the school year.)

**Note:** *Parents are encouraged to participate in their student's selection of a book, as some of the works on the list deal with mature or sensitive issues. Books on this list come from the following sources:*  
[www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com), [www.teenreads.com](http://www.teenreads.com), and [www.ala.org](http://www.ala.org) (The American Library Association).

**Assignment:** Read a book from the following list and create a portfolio based on the book. It is a good idea to read the portfolio directions *before beginning to read*. You also might want to make notes about important pages, characters, or events *as you read*. These notes will be helpful as you sit down to create your portfolio.

*An Abundance of Katherines*, by John Green

*American Gods: A Novel*, by Neil Gaiman

*Bamboo People*, by Mitali Perkins

*Be More Chill*, by Ned Vizzini

*Big Fish*, by Daniel Wallace

*Chains*, by Laurie Halse Anderson

*The Highest Tide*, by Jim Lynch

*Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*, by Dai Sijie (Ina Rilke, translator)

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, by Mark Haddon

*The Host*, by Stephenie Meyer

*If I Stay*, by Gayle Forman

*Kick*, by Walter Dean Myers

*I Am the Messenger*, by Markus Zusak

*Skunk Girl*, by Sheba Karim

*Thirteen Reasons Why*, by Jay Asher

**Portfolio Instructions:**

- I. **Front Cover:** Provide a picture that depicts a key scene, an important or recurring symbol, or a significant idea from the book. Include the title of the book (underlined or italicized) and the name of the author. (Your illustrations for this portfolio may be hand-drawn, computer generated, or cut out from magazines or newspapers.)
- II. **Project Creator Label:** Type the following information, print it, and paste it to the inside front cover of your portfolio. Have your parents sign before turning in your project.

Name of Student : \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Book: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Genre: \_\_\_\_\_ # of pages: \_\_\_\_\_ Publication date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents: Please read and sign.** Thank you!

I give my son/daughter permission to read the above book. To the best of my knowledge, he/she read the book this summer and has never read this book before.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(parent signature)

- III. **Key Characters:** Choose two to three important characters to include in your portfolio. For each, provide a picture of what you think the character looks like. Below the picture, write one paragraph that describes the character's personality and gives important information about him or her.
- IV. **Setting:** Include a picture (or two) that shows how you envision the time and place of the story, according to the information provided in the book. Then write one paragraph that thoroughly describes the setting.
- V. **Plot Sequencing:** Create a timeline or a list that includes 10-15 of the most significant plot events. Events should span the entire novel.
- VI. **Book Review:** Write a one paragraph review of your book. In it include:  
Introductory Sentences: Include the **title** and **author** and a very brief "What is this book about?" statement.  
Body Sentences: Introduce the **main characters** briefly and give a quick retelling of the **plot**—and never give away the ending.  
Concluding Sentences: End with your **recommendation** of the book and suggest who might like it.
- \*\*For Extra Points:** Create an account on [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com) and post your review there. Once you find out who your English teacher will be, e-mail him or her a link to the page where your review can be found. ☺

